



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Yoshimasa SASAOKA	)	
	)	
Application No.: Unassigned	)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
	)	
Filed: November 27, 2000	)	Examiner: Unassigned
	)	
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND	)	
SHEET SUPPLY UNIT FOR USE IN THE	)	
SAME	)	

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and is in a language other than English.

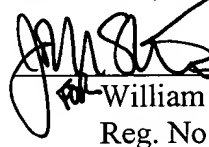
a. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 3-182431. The relevance of this document is discussed at page 2 of the specification of the present application and is shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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